

Message Text

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61

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SCCT-02 SY-04 USSS-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

AID-20 FBIE-00 L-03 CPR-02 SCA-01 DEAE-00 SNM-02 /114 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR/J:DCNORTON:RC

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:JRBURKE

PAF:RFIMBRES

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P 162125Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PDIP (MATALON, ELI)

SUBJECT: BOMB THREAT AGAINST MINISTER MATALON

THE FOLLOWING UPI NEWS ARTICLE APPEARED IN WASHINGTON POST
EDITION OF AUGUST 16, 1974:

AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON JAMAICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY
MINISTER, WHO IS LEADING A CRACKDOWN ON DRUG SMUGGLING IN
HIS COUNTRY, FAILED TONIGHT BECAUSE NEWSPAPER WRAPPING KEPT
A LIVE GRENADE FROM EXPLODING IN HIS CAR, SHERIFF'S
DEPUTIES SAID. THE OFFICIAL, ELI MATALON, BECAME SUSPICIOUS
OF THE BULKY PACKAGE AND SUMMONED AUTHORITIES WHO DEFUSED
THE BOMB. THE DADE COUNTY SHERIFF'S BOMB SQUAD SAID THE
NEWSPAPER CONTAINED A "RUSSIAN OR FOREIGN-MADE TYPE OF
MILITARY FRAGMENTATION GRENADE." A TECHNICIAN SAID THE
GRENADE WAS LIVE AND THE PIN HAD BEEN REMOVED. MATALON
FOUND THE PACKAGE ON THE FLOOR OF THE CAR WHEN HE LEFT
THE TEMPORARY OFFICES OF THE FEDERAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION. THEODORE SWIFT, DEA PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICER, SAID MATALON PICKED UP THE PACKAGE BUT BECAME
ALARMED AT THE SIZE, WEIGHT AND SHAPE OF THE OBJECT INSIDE.
HE REPLACED THE PACKAGE ON THE FLOOR OF THE AUTO AND WENT
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BACK INTO THE BUILDING TO SUMMON AID.

2. DEPTOFF SPOKE WITH MINISTER MATALON FOLLOWING INCIDENT TO EXPRESS DEPT'S CONCERN. MATALON DISMISSED INCIDENT AS AN "OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD" AND PREFERRED THAT INCIDENT BE PLAYED IN A "LOW KEY MANNER." SINCE A NUMBER OF POLICE

AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WERE SUMMONED TO THE SCENE, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP INCIDENT FROM RECEIVING PUBLICITY.

3. DEA IS PROVIDING PROTECTIVE SECURITY SERVICE FOR MATALON AND FAMILY FOR REMAINDER OF THEIR STAY IN THE MIAMI AREA.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL REFER PRESS INQUIRIES TO DEA AND DADE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. IF ASKED, HOWEVER, WE WILL QUOTE AMBASSADOR GERARD'S STATEMENT CONTAINED IN KINGSTON 2873 AND EMPHASIZE FACT THAT A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT IS UNDERWAY. KISSINGER

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